

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3661

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECLA, PORG, SHUM, UNGA, CI
SUBJ: CHILEAN HUNGER STRIKERS VISIT UNDER SYG BUFFUM
AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG

REFS: (A) USUN 1996; (B) SANTIAGO 5029; (C) SANTIAGO 7972

1. SUMMARY. UN SECRETARIAT HAS REVEALED CONTENTS OF THE
REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO THE REQUEST OF
THE SYG FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING 36 MISSING PERSONS
WHO ARE RELATIVES OF THE 26 HUNGER STRIKERS WHO OCCUPIED
ECLA HEADQUARTERS IN SANTIAGO LAST JUNE. REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS ARE IN NEW YORK AND HAVE MET WITH UN
SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE OF THE JUNE HUNGER STRIKERS (REFTELS A AND B)
AND SERGIO INSUNZA AND JAIME BARRIOS OF CHILE DEOMCRATICO,
MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY BUFFUM AND UN GENERAL COUNSEL
SUY ON OCTOBER 6TH AND HEARD FROM THEM THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHILE'S (GOC) REPLY TO THE SYG'S REQUEST (REFTEL B)
FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE 36 MISSING PERSONS WHO ARE
RELATIVES OF THE 26 HUNGER STRIKERS. ACCORDING TO THE CHILEANS,
SUY CHARACTERIZED THE GOC RESPONSE AS "UNSATISFACTORY,"
AND ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CHILEANS AS TO WHAT
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THE SYG SHOULD DO. THE CHILEANS TOLD BUFFUM AND SUY
THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SYG TO GO TO CHILE IMMEDIATELY TO LOOK INTO THESE
36 CASES AND THAT THEY, THE CHILEANS, WOULD AGREE THAT
THERE BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE TRIP BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE
FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS THESE CASES MUST BE EXPLORED.

3. THE THREE CHILEAN WOMEN FURNISHED MISOFF WITH A MIMEOGRAPHED STATEMENT ON THE CHILEAN SITUATION, AND A LIST OF 563 MISSING PERSONS FOR WHOM THERE IS NO REASONABLE ACCOUNTING. THIS DOCUMENT (POUCHED TO SCHIELE, IO/UNP) WAS PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS.

4. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 7TH HELD IN THE UN BUILDING BUT SPONSORED BY CHILE DOMOCRATICO, THE THREE WOMEN DISTRIBUTED A STATEMENT IN BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH URGING THE UN AND THE GA TO TAKE ACTION TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE 36 MISSING RELATIVES. (COPIES POUCHED OCTOBER 7TH TO SCHIELE, IO/UNP.)

5. THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 7TH THE THREE WOMEN, SERGIO INSUNZA (FORMER MEMBER OF JUSTICE UNDER ALLENDE), AND THE DIRECTOR OF CHILE DEMOCRATICO MET WITH AMBASSADORS YOUNG, LOWENSTEIN AND MISOFF. AFTER DESCRIBING THEIR INTERVIEW WITH BUFFUM AND SUY, AND GIVING THEIR REACTION TO THE GOC'S RESPONSE, THEY ASKED YOUNG TO 1) URGE THE SYG TO SEND A MISSION TO CHILE AT ONCE; 2) TRY TO MAKE SOME PUBLIC STATEMENT; 3) SEE IF THERE IS SOMEWAY THE USG COULD PROTECT THEM WHEN THEY RETURNED; AND 4) ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER FOR THEM.

6. AFTER DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG OFFERED TO 1) SEE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION; CONFIDENTIAL

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2) ASK ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, BOB PASTOR OF THE N.S.C. AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN TO SEE THE GROUP; 3) SEND A CABLE TO THE AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO ASKING THAT THE EMBASSY CHECK ON THE SAFETY OF THE THREE AFTER THEY RETURNED TO CHILE; AND 4) SUGGESTED ANY OF THE THREE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CALL MISOFF (TYSON) FROM CHILE IF THERE WAS "ANYTHING WE COULD DO."

7. AFTER THE GROU LEFT AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED LOWENSTEIN TO CALL ON BUFFUM TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SENDING UN OBSERVERS TO CHILE TO SEE IF MORE INFORMATION ON THESE CASES COULD BE DISCOVERED.

8. AT BREAKFAST MEETING OCTOBER 10TH WITH AMBASSADOR WELLS AND MISOFF, ENRIQUE IGLESIAS CHARACTERIZED THE RESPONSE OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AS "TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY," AND SAID THAT HE WAS AFRAID OF THE RESPONSE OF THE WOMEN IN SANTIAGO WHO WERE RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS, SAYING THEY SEEMED TO "HAVE LOST THEIR FEAR." HE URGED US SUPPORT FOR THE SENDING OF UN OBSERVERS TO CHILE TO SEE IF ANY MORE INFORMATION CAN BE DISCOVERED, BUT SUGGESTED US APPROACHES DIRECTLY TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE "OUNTERPRODUCTIVE."
YOUNG

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